



Apesanahkwat will lead Tribe into new millenium

Barbara Kelly to serve as Vice Chair of Tribe

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

The Ada Deer/Blackhawk rooms were filled to near capacity as tribal members filed in to attend the organi-

zational meeting and witness the swearing-in of the nine-member governing body of the Menominee Nation.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman pro tem, the Honorable Chief Justice Joe Martin.

The Menominee High School Singers & Drum, led by Ron Corn, Jr., performed the Flag Song as the Men-

ominee Nation Veterans presented the Colors.

The Menominee prayer was performed by tribal elder Lillian Wausejeun Nelson.

The oath of office to newly elected Legislators, Sylvia Wilber, Eugene Caldwell, and Apesanahkwat was held

See **SWEARING-IN** page 2

Matchopatow confesses to 1998 murder of Keshena woman

By Staff Reporters
Menominee Nation News

Christopher Matchopatow, 24, was arrested for the brutal murder and mutilation of a 25 year old Keshena woman after a 22 month investigation by the FBI and Tribal Police Department.

Mary Tomow was last seen alive by her mother, Gertrude Tomow, on March 21, 1998. Her partially burnt body was found on Spirit Rock Road six days later.

Matchopatow was arrested late Friday afternoon, January 28, 2000 by

See **MURDER** page 13

Shooting victim on road to recovery

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

Five and one-half weeks have passed since Tessa Haack was wounded and permanently scarred by a stray bullet on New Years Eve.

The 26 year-old woman and her two

See **RECOVERY** page 13



Y. Kaquatosh/MNN

Newly elected Legislative officers were officially Sworn-in by Honorable Chief Justice Joseph H. Martin on Wednesday, February 9 in the Ada Deer/Blackhawk rooms at the Menominee Nation Casino-Bingo-Hotel in Keshena, Wisconsin. Above, (l-r): Sylvia Wilber, Eugene 'Gene' Caldwell, and Apesanahkwat take the oath of office. There has been a substantial increase in tribal attendance at the organizational meeting in recent years. Below, tribal members, family and friends witness the event.



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MURDER:

FBI Special Agent Raymond A. Greco and Criminal Investigator Doug Snow. After he was taken into custody, the suspect provided a hand written confession to law enforcement officials, according to Menominee Tribal Police Chief, William Beauprey. Matchopatow, who was taken into custody without incident, was then photographed and fingerprinted at the Tribal Jail.

Matchopatow was brought before US Magistrate Judge James R. Sickie in Green Bay, WI, on Saturday, January 29, 2000, and formally charged with first degree murder. He was detained without bond, pending his appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Patricia J. Gorence in Milwaukee on Wednesday, February 2, 2000.

Beauprey stated that the investigation is not over indicating that, "(We) have more evidence coming in." Chief Beauprey also stated that some people were being re-interviewed due to some inconsistencies in their statements. Whether or not there will be more arrests in the case will be determined after new evidence in the case is reevaluated.

According to the criminal complaint, Matchopatow denied being with Mary, stating that he slept in his vehicle while it was parked in his aunt's driveway, several doors down from his own residence.

The victim's mother stated that her daughter left her residence on Highway 55, with Matchopatow in a blue automobile at 4:30 a.m. on March 21, 1998. Mary was last seen wearing black pants, a white shirt and white tennis shoes.

In a witness testimony to investigators, Mr. Matchopatow was seen driving a dark blue four-door vehicle on Old South Branch Road on the Menominee Indian Reservation between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. on March 21, 1998. According to the witness, the vehicle was headed toward Keshena. Spirit Rock Road leads directly between Highway 55 and Old South Branch Road.

On March 27, 1998, Mary Tomow's body was discovered some 30 yards in the woods by Officer Robert Summers after he and Warden Sheldon Webster found what appeared to be burnt clothing on Spirit Rock Road.

Miss Tomow's body was transported to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiners' Office where an autopsy was performed by K. Allen Stormo, Assistant County Medical Examiner. The medical autopsy revealed the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head which caused a depressed and fractured skull.

Further study indicated that several fragments were missing in the rear part of her head.

Blood samples taken from the suspect (by way of a grand jury subpoena) and a rape trauma kit

that was conducted on the victim, were sent to the FBI Crime Laboratory in Washington, DC

Following completion of laboratory analysis, DNA samples showed that the suspects semen was recovered from the victim.

According to a statistical analysis, the match was 1 in 7 billion in the Native American population and 1 in 19 trillion in the general population.

When asked why this case took almost two years to solve, Beauprey said, "We have to lean on outside agencies for our scientific evidence. It took them 22 months to get the results back for us, everything we could have done, was done," he added.

Matchopatow is currently being held in Milwaukee.

He was scheduled to be indicted on February 8 according to an initial bond hearing that was held on February 2 in Milwaukee. Another bond hearing will be held on February 11.

The case is being prosecuted in federal court, due to the fact that Mary Tomow and Christopher Matchopatow are both enrolled Menominees and that the murder took place within the boundaries of the Menominee Reservation.

Police Chief Beauprey indicated that other unsolved murder cases on the reservation are just as important as the Tomow case, stating that "All unsolved cases are still being looked into."

"Investigators and officers who originally worked on previous cases no longer work at the Tribal Police Department, and at times, that can slow down the investigation," said Beauprey.

RECOVERY:

children Michael, 2 and 1 year-old Monnee were spending the evening at her mother's home in Neopit.

The family felt it was safer to stay home and spend some time together. They decided to watch movies, have some pizza and later in the evening, they were going to have some root beer floats.

Moments after the New Year arrived, the unexpected happened. At about 12:10 a.m. Tesa went to the dining room table to sit down with her youngest child Monnee, when she was struck by a stray bullet that was later determined by authorities, to have entered through the dining room window.

The bullet entered the left side of her face near her left temple, shattering the cartilage behind her

sinuses and was lodged in her right cheek. "Two centimeters up, she would have been killed on the spot," said her mother Donna.

"At first, I didn't know what had happened," said Tesa.

As she slumped over in the chair with her daughter in her arms, Donna's fiance L.J. immediately took action by compressing the wound before the EMTs arrived on the scene.

"I thought I was blind," said Tesa who was conscious throughout the whole ordeal. She couldn't see nothing out of her left eye and said the sight in her right eye was slowly fading. At this point, Tesa felt weak and wanted to lie down but, her mother said EMS advised her not to lay down.

"I went to my bedroom and dropped to my knees and prayed," her mother said. "I haven't prayed since I was a kid," she added.

Tesa was transported by ambulance to the Shawano Medical Center where a Flight For Life helicopter and Trauma team were waiting to transport her to Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah. She arrived to her destination in twenty minutes.

Because of the swelling and pressure on her brain, the medical team was unable to operate.

On January 5th doctors informed her mother of more bad news - Tesa may be totally blind. On January 6th, six days after the accident, Tesa underwent reconstructive surgery. From 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., her mother held a constant vigil praying her daughter would be spared sight in one eye. At 1:55, a nurse came out to inform family members that the bullet was extracted.

The doctor's continue to monitor her progress after they found a small hemorrhage in her right eye. This will continue over several weeks to make sure the muscle in her eye begins to work properly. To ensure a positive outcome, Tesa wears special corrective glasses.

Tesa was released on January 12. "Michael was so happy to see his mom," said Donna. Three other grandchildren were at the residence at the time. One witnessed the whole event while the other two were asleep and were awakened by all the commotion.

Looking back on what took place, Tesa said it was "Scary when it happened that night. I thought I was gonna die." Her concern was focused more on her children. (I'm) so grateful, so glad, she (her daughter Bonnie) wasn't the one that got shot," said Tesa.

While in the hospital, Tesa had a near death experience and remembers being surrounded by a lot of spirits. The most prominent was Al Dodge, an elder her mother cared for. "Al always said (he'd) watch over me and my family," added Donna.

Although her recovery has been remarkable, Tesa continues to experience a lot of head pain and says there is some numbness on her face. She has also lost her sense of smell.

Four suspects were taken in for questioning in connection with the case that night. The two men and two women were arrested on charges of reckless use of a firearm. The suspects were brought before Judge Stephen Grochowski. Bond was set at \$500 each and the suspects were released.

Federal charges are pending until evidence that was taken to the Federal Crime Lab is analyzed.

Criminal Investigators Doug Snow, Nan Waupoose, and Scott Wouter are handling the case. F.B.I. Special Agents Ray Greco, and Tom Martin were also on scene that night. Greco and Wouters canvassed the area to conduct interviews of potential witnesses.

SWEARING IN

and administered by Chief Justice Martin and was followed by the swearing-in of Tribal Police Chief Keith Tourtillott. After an Honor Song was conducted by the Drum group, the setting of the Chairman's salary was open for debate.

Legislator Wilber stood up to address the audience to express her opinion on the subject. Reading off a document, she contends that "For the past 6 years the Tribal Legislature has violated the oath of office and has abused the power granted to it under the Tribal Constitution and Bylaws relating to compensation for themselves and officers of the Legislature," adding that the organizational meeting was an appropriate starting point to make the necessary corrections.

This same document was distributed to the audience.

As supporters began to shout in agreement, Chief Justice Martin reminded everyone in attendance that there would be no outbursts of any kind while the meeting was in progress.

Legislator Wilber made a motion to set the Chairman's salary at \$60,000.00 pointing out that "a salary for the Chairperson at \$75,000.00 is unreasonable and unconstitutional." The motion was seconded by Lew Boyd.

Input from members of the audience was allowed before a poll vote was taken. The motion was defeated by a vote of 3 for (Wilber, Boyd and Snow) and 6 against.

A motion was then made by Eugene Caldwell to set the Chairman's salary at \$100,000.00 adding that the Chairman's position involves a lot of hard work and "with the Kenosha Project on the verge of reality, it is a reasonable amount."

Negative overtones were displayed by members of the audience. The audience was once again reminded to refrain from making any type of remarks and warned that they would be removed from the room if they were out of order.

The motion was seconded by Wilmer Peters, Jr. The motion was passed after a poll vote was conducted with 6 for (Apesanahkwat, Caldwell, Waukau, Kelly, Wayka and Peters) and 3 against (Wilber, Boyd and Snow).

The approved salary reflects a \$25,000.00 increase.

The election of the Chairman followed. Eugene Caldwell nominated Apesanahkwat and Lew Boyd nominated Sylvia Wilber. Motions to cease nominations were done by Barbara Frechette-Kelly and Eugene Caldwell. No second was necessary.

The vote was 6-3 in favor of Apesanahkwat to once again lead the Menominee Tribal Legislature as Chairman. Barbara Frechette-Kelly was elected to serve as Vice-Chair, while Lisa Waukau was elected as Secretary.

Nominations went as follows: Legislator Lew Boyd nominated Sylvia Wilber for both the Vice-Chair and Secretary positions however, she was unsuccessful on both counts by a 6-3 poll vote.

Lisa Waukau nominated Barbara Frechette-Kelly as Vice-Chair and Eugene Caldwell nominated Waukau to serve as Secretary. Both Legislators were voted in by a poll vote of 6-3.

This will be Sylvia Wilber's second term in office. She previously served one three-year term on the Tribal Legislature from 1984-1986.

Apesanahkwat was recently re-elected to a second 3-year term in office. This will be the fourth consecutive time Apesanahkwat has been elected to serve as Chairman ('97, '98, '99 and 2000). He previously held the top legislative position in 1984, 1988 and 1989.